



Embassy of the United States of America

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Embassy of the United States of America, Tel Aviv

Announcement Type:

Funding Opportunity Title: Gender Equality in STEM & High-tech

Funding Opportunity Number: PD-TLV-001

Catalog of Federal Domestic 19.021

Assistance Number: 19.801

Funding Amount: \$692,000

Expected Period of Performance: September 2016-September 2019

Key Dates: May 22, 2016

Executive Summary:

The Embassy of the United States of America in Tel Aviv announces the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for a new program whose goal is to create STEM education opportunities for girls, change community attitudes, provide skills training and high-tech linkages to young women, and engage the tech industry on diversity hiring practices and workplace innovation. By working in partnership with schools, with U.S. high-tech companies and Israeli NGOs, this project will synergize individual efforts in the areas of STEM education and high-tech employment for a multi-faceted and sustainable approach. The program will target the Northern, Central, and Southern regions of Israel encompassing four Arab and two ultra-Orthodox communities to provide:

1. Hands-on science and technology activities to girls and their families, teachers, principals, and religious leaders (e.g., through workshops, hack-a-thons, MEET-Ups, TechCamp) in order to demonstrate that science and technology are achievable, lucrative, socially relevant, and connected to family and community.
2. Science education via TechCamp to teachers in order to strengthen sustainable science teaching in marginalized community schools that lack qualified teachers.
3. Skills training, mentoring, and high-tech linkages to young women entering the workforce, as well as advancing within the industry.
4. Working with industry to address challenges Arab and ultra-Orthodox women face in terms of cultural norms, travel distance, work-life balance, etc.
5. Strengthening partnerships with schools and high-tech industry to institutionalize girls in STEM and leap-frog women into high-tech employment.

Eligibility for this NOFO is limited to: an Israeli-registered NGO.

One grant in FY 2015/16 Economic Support Funds (ESF) will be awarded under this NOFO.

The initial period of performance will be for September 2016-September 2019. Funding authority rests in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

All applicants should be familiar with OMB Circular 2 CFR Part 200.

How to submit proposals: email the following to TelAvivGrants@state.gov

Please read the entire NOFO package before submitting an application.

Notification to applicants: The Public Diplomacy Section will contact finalists by **September 10, 2016**, of their preliminary selection, with instructions for submission of next steps and request for additional documentation, if applicable. Unsuccessful applicants will not be contacted.

INFORMATION SESSION

The Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Tel Aviv will hold the following information session. Please RSVP to TelAvivGrants@state.gov. Space is limited.

Tuesday April 19th, 2016 at 15:00 p.m.

Location: The Office of Public Affairs, US Embassy on 1 Ben Yehuda Street, 8th floor, Migdalor building- Tel Aviv

Program Description

A. Funding Opportunity Description

i. Background

The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv strives to promote economic inclusion and stability in marginalized Arab and ultra-Orthodox communities by working with schools, with U.S. high-tech companies and Israeli NGOs to better institutionalize girls in STEM and leap-frogging women into high-tech employment. Israel's expanding high-tech sector faces a looming employee deficit. Arab and ultra-Orthodox women are the poorest communities within Israel. Israeli women earn 23% less than Israeli men. Israeli Arab women earn 69% of what Israeli Jewish women earn.

ii. Program Goals

The goal of this program is to create STEM education opportunities for girls, change community attitudes, provide skills training and high-tech linkages to young women, and engage the tech industry on diversity hiring practices and workplace innovation. The program will target the North, Central, and South regions of Israel encompassing four Arab and two ultra-Orthodox communities to provide:

iii. Main Activities

- Hands -on science and technology activities to girls and their families, teachers, principals, and religious leaders (e.g., through workshops, hack-a-thons, MEET-Ups, TechCamp) in order to demonstrate that science and technology are achievable, lucrative, socially relevant, and connected to family and community.
- Science education via TechCamp to teachers in order to strengthen sustainable science teaching in marginalized community schools that lack qualified teachers.
- Skills training, mentoring, and high-tech linkages to young women entering the workforce, as well as advancing within the industry.
- Working with industry to address challenges Arab and ultra-Orthodox women face in terms of cultural norms, travel distance, work-life balance, etc.
- Strengthening partnerships with schools and high-tech industry to institutionalize girls in STEM and leap-frog women into high-tech employment.

iv. Expected Results and Performance Indicators

Success will be indicated by

- More girls study STEM as evidenced by an increase in girls in target communities entering STEM in high school and higher education.
- Change in attitude as evidenced by girls, teachers, principals, parents, and religious leaders in target communities demonstrating a positive attitude toward girls studying STEM and working in STEM fields.
- More teachers qualified to teach STEM subjects in middle and high school as evidenced by teachers trained in TechCamp using hands on activities to teach STEM in schools.
- More women entering into high-tech jobs as evidenced by an increase in women in target communities with high-tech jobs following the training program.
- More women advancing in high-tech careers as evidenced by women moving from entry level to managerial level jobs in high-tech following the training program.
- More women from rural areas working in high-tech industry following industry discussion of cultural challenges and solutions as evidenced by demographic (gender, diversity, residence) hiring statistics pre- and post-convening.

B. Federal Award Information

i. Available Funding and Legislative Authority

The source of this funding is Economic Support Funds.

ii. Summary of Award Information

Type of Award:	Grant
Appropriated Fiscal Year of Funds:	FY2015/16
Approximate Total Funding:	\$692,000
Approximate Number of Awards:	1
Anticipated Award Date:	September 2016
Anticipated Project Completion Date:	September 2019

iii. Deadline

Deadline for Applications:	May 22, 2016
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C. Eligibility Information

Applications by applicants which do not meet the eligibility by the time of an application deadline will result in the application not being reviewed.

1. Eligible Applicants: an Israeli-registered NGO.
2. Cost-Sharing or Matching: in kind and partnership with industry should be shown in the budget proposal.

D. Application and Submission Information

Contact: TelAvivGrants@state.gov

1. Address to Request Application Package

Please email TelAvivGrants@state.gov to request official Application Package.

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

Please read the entire NOFO and follow the guidelines for proposal preparation below. Applicants must include the following in the proposal submission. **All submissions must be in English.**

1. Table of Contents that lists application contents and attachments (if any);
2. Completed and signed SF-424, SF-424A and SF424B, as directed on www.grants.gov. The Certifications and Assurances that your organization is agreeing to in signing the 424 are available at <https://statebuy.state.gov/fa/>;
3. If your organization engages in lobbying activities, a Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL) form is required;
4. Proposal Narrative (not to exceed 10 pages, single-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font in Microsoft Word, at least one-inch margins), following the structure described below. The proposal narrative should identify inputs, outputs, and outcomes of the proposal activities, timelines, and any qualitative or quantitative targets, and impact.
5. Summary and detailed Budget in USD, in Excel, using the format shown in the budget template;
6. Detailed Budget Narrative (not to exceed 6 pages) that includes an explanation for each line item in the spreadsheet, as well as the source and description of any cost share offered;
7. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan detailing how the project's impact and effectiveness will be monitored and evaluated throughout the project, using the attached template.
8. Attachments may be included, (letters of commitment from the applicant institution and sub-award partners, CVs of key personnel, project experience, etc.) but should

- not be unreasonably lengthy; see NOFO for details on required attachments, if any;
9. If your organization has a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, include your latest NICRA as a pdf file;
 10. A PDF file copy of your organization's most recent financial audit;
 11. Number all pages, including budget and addenda.

Applicants under consideration for an award will likely be subject to a pre-award survey to determine fiscal responsibility and ensure adequacy of financial controls. This survey contains a list of criteria for determining whether the applicant's accounting system meets the minimum standards to be eligible for USG funding. These standards include appropriate accounting software and written financial management policies and accounting procedures. The pre-award survey will involve assessing the extent to which these are in place within an organization and being actively implemented.

3. Unique Entity Identifier and SAMS

The System for Award Management is a U.S.-government wide registry of vendors doing business with the U.S. federal government and requires annual renewal. The system centralizes information about grant applicants/recipients, and provides a central location for grant applicants/recipients to change organizational information. More information about SAM.gov and useful guides for setting-up a new account, updating an existing account, or renewing an expired account can be found at: <http://statebuy.state.gov/fa/Pages/SAMInfo.aspx>. Foreign-based applicants are strongly encouraged to review these guides when creating an account with SAM.gov.

Each applicant is required to: (i) Be registered in SAM.gov before submitting its application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. The Department of State may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the Department of State is ready to make a Federal award, DOS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

Further, applicants must maintain an active account, with current information, while its application is under consideration for funding. To keep an active SAM.gov account, applicants must renew it at least once each year. If an organization's account expires, the organization cannot submit a grant application until it is renewed.

4. Submission Method and Dates

Completed applications should be submitted electronically through:

TelAvivGrants@state.gov

Please follow all NOFO instructions carefully and start early to ensure you have time to collect all of the required information. All applications must be submitted by May 22, 2016. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered, unless a late filing has been approved in advance by the Department of State.

5. **Funding Restrictions:** The following activities and costs are not covered under this announcement:

- Construction is not an allowable activity under this award.
- Activities that appear partisan or that support individual or party electoral campaigns;
- Direct support or the appearance of direct support for any religious organization, to include repair or building of structures used for religious purposes.
- Military assistance of any kind, including weapons buy back or rewards programs.
- Purchase of firearms, ammunition, or removal of unexploded ordnances.
- Para-police (i.e., militias, neighborhood watch, security guards) and prison-related projects. This restriction includes no funding of any secondary need in a law-enforcement organization.
- Payments for any partner government, military or civilian government employee salary or pension.
- Vehicle purchases to include motorcycles. (However, farm equipment, such as small tractors, and transportation costs will be considered.)
- Duplication of services immediately available through municipal, provincial, or national government.
- Funds for market research, advertising (unless public service related to grant program) or other promotional expenses.
- Expenses made prior to the approval of a proposal or unreasonable expenditures will not be reimbursed.

E. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Proposal Narrative: The proposed program should demonstrate a nuanced and multi-faceted approach to *gender inclusion* in STEM and high-tech employment by providing engaging activities that include, but are not limited to:

- Hands -on science and technology activities to girls and their families, teachers, principals, and religious leaders (e.g., through workshops, hack-a-thons, MEET-

Ups, TechCamp) in order to demonstrate that science and technology are achievable, lucrative, socially relevant, and connected to family and community.

- Science education via TechCamp to teachers in order to strengthen sustainable science teaching in marginalized community schools that lack qualified teachers.
- Skills training, mentoring, and high-tech linkages to young women entering the workforce, as well as advancing within the industry.
- Industry stakeholders identify solutions to cultural challenges Arab and ultra-Orthodox women face in joining and remaining in high tech industry employment (e.g., travel distance, contact with men, work hours).
- Strengthening partnerships with schools and high-tech industry to institutionalize girls in STEM and leap-frog women into high-tech employment.

The program should build from existing industry and NGO experience. Proposals should target the Northern, Central, and Southern regions of Israel, targeting four Arab and two ultra-Orthodox communities. The Embassy, in consultation with the grantee, will choose the communities. U.S. Embassy logo and branding must be evident at all activities. Where possible, implementers will use examples and materials based on U.S. models.

Budget: The budget should indicate the types of activities and training, potential NGO implementing partners, potential in-kind contributions, and potential high-tech partnership contributions.

i. Criteria Components

1. *Executive Summary*
2. *Organizational Capacity and Past Performance*
3. *Program Strategy*
4. *Performance Monitoring and Evaluation*
5. *Management Plan*

ii. Budget Components

1. *Budget Appropriateness*
2. *Cost-effectiveness*

2. Review and Selection Process

Projects will be reviewed and selected based on stated criteria.

3. Designated Performance and Integrity System (currently FAPIIS)

The Department of State, prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider

any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (currently FAPIIS) (see 41 U.S.C. 2313).

The applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.

The Department of State will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in §200.205 Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants.

F: Federal Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

The grant shall be written, signed, and awarded by the Grants Officer and administered by the Grants Officer, the Grants Officer Representative and the Grants Specialist. The Grants Officer is the Government official delegated the authority by the U.S. Department of State Procurement Executive to write, award, and administer grants and cooperative agreements. The assistance award agreement is the authorizing document, and it will be provided to the Recipient through either mail or facsimile transmission.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Furthermore, the Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

2. Administrative and National Policy

Prior to submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications that will apply to this award to ensure they will be able to comply. The terms and conditions are available on the State Department's procurement website at: <http://fa.statebuy.state.gov/>

Applicants should also be familiar with the OMB circular that will apply to this cooperative agreement: OMB Uniform Guidance: Cost Principles, Audit, and Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR Chapter I, Chapter II, Part 200, et al.)

3. Reporting Requirements

The Recipient, at a minimum, shall provide financial, progress, and final reports. Please note that all substantiating documentation supporting reporting and data collected, including survey responses and contact information, must be maintained for a minimum of three years and provided to the Department of State upon request. All reports must be written in English.

i. Financial Reports

The Recipient is required to submit quarterly financial reports throughout the project period, using Form FFR SF-425, the Federal Financial Report form, SF-270, the Request for Advance form as well as forms suggested by the Grants Officer Representative. Form FFR (SF-425) and SF-270 can be found on OMB's website here: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms/. Financial reports are due 30 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter.

ii. Progress Reporting

While the grantee will be in frequent contact with the Embassy Tel Aviv concerning the project details, the grantee is required to submit quarterly program progress reports using page 1 of Form SF-PPR Performance Progress Report, which can be found at OMB's website http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms as well as forms suggested by the Grants Officer Representative (GOR). Progress reports are due 30 days after the end of the quarterly reporting period.

iii. Final Report

The final report will be due no later than ninety days after completion or termination of all project activities. The Final Report shall include the following elements: executive summary, successes, outcomes, how the project has increased science capacity in the regions selected and addressed the other goals of the project, and a final financial report.

G: Agency Contact

Any prospective applicant who has questions concerning the contents of this NOFO should email them to TelAvivGrants@state.gov. Note that once the NOFO deadline has passed Department of State staff in Washington, D.C. and overseas at U.S. Embassies/ Missions may not discuss this competition with applicants until the review process has been completed.